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27 December 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Plans)
FROM : Deputy Director Central Intelligence
SUBJECT : Congressman James P. S. DEVEREUX

1. I was interested in the attached account of Congressman DEVEREUX. Here is someone who ought to be sympathetic with our activities.

2. Do you know him?

ALLEN W. DULLES

Attachment (1)

To Mr. Dulles -

I am sorry to say that I am not acquainted with Devereux. [redacted] has undertaken to meet Devereux at some early date through members of Bob's family who reside near him.

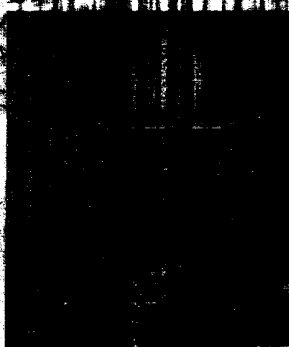
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Major Devereux in 1941.



Congressman Devereux today.

Then and Now

By BARBARA SQUIER ADLER

ON Dec. 23, 1941, Marine Major (later General) James P. S. Devereux surrendered Wake Island to the Japanese Navy. For fifteen days this sand speck in the far Pacific, 2,300 miles west of Pearl Harbor, had been the cockpit of an unbelievable defense. All America was practically at the ringside—by wireless. And when the siege was over, all America agreed that it had taken a place high in the archives of national heroism.

Wake was just a lonesome weather station and landing field for trans-Pacific flights. The Japs had assumed they could casually sweep it up, after Pearl Harbor, with no pain. But they had reckoned without Devereux, his 522 Marines plus 1,200 tough American civilian construction men, then working there, who volunteered on the spot, were sworn into the armed services and proceeded to fight like veteran wildcats.

Major Devereux and his men fought without radar, without patrol planes, without enough rifles to go round, without helmets or gas masks for the civilians, with few grenades and fewer sidearms. Yet the scanty supply of artillery and anti-aircraft weapons damaged two cruisers, sank two destroyers, one escort vessel and destroyed or damaged seventy-two aircraft. The surrender was made to avoid a total massacre.

The next four years the major's forces spent in prison camps. He himself became an alumnus of six of them before his internment came to an end on Sept. 13, 1945. His return to this country and his reunion with his young son, Paddy, were saddened by the fact that both his wife and mother had died during his imprisonment.

Devereux was born in Cabana, Cuba, in 1903. He was educated here and abroad. In choosing a military career he emulated his father, an officer in the United States Army but he picked the Marines. He says, "I considered them the best branch of the service and thought I'd like the life."

TODAY General and Representative Devereux is combining the life of a Republican Congressman from

Maryland and that of a country squire. His 200-acre place, Eli O'Carroll, at Stevenson, north of Baltimore, is near the headquarters of the Green Spring Valley Hounds, a hunt with which he frequently rides. He used to play polo. His home is a pillared colonial dwelling, built about 1780.

When Congress is in session, Representative Devereux lives at the Chevy Chase Club. There he can concentrate on the job at hand, which he takes seriously. He enjoys the Congressional routine, particularly the debates and committee work. Believing himself best fitted for work on veteran and military affairs, he sought appointments to those committees. At the moment he is a member of the Veterans Affairs Committee and would like to serve on the Armed Services Committee, but must wait for more seniority.

Representative Devereux is strongly in favor of Universal Military Training. "We have got to have it," he says, "and it has to be a real plan, not just a high type of Boy Scout training. That would do more harm than good. Universal training should be tied in with the Reserve program."

ON the subject of the Eisenhower boom for the Presidential nomination he is reserved. "I'd like to know first what General Eisenhower thinks about certain issues and unfortunately he can't speak at present because of his military position." He was quick to add that he had no fear that if Eisenhower or MacArthur were elected to the Presidency, or military background might open the door to a dictatorship or a military government.

Besides his Washington office the Representative maintains one near his home, at Pikesville, for the convenience of his constituents. He also has secretaries one or two days a week available to the voters at other points in his district. His job as Congressman and the people he serves are uppermost in General Devereux's mind, today, giving him little opportunity to reflect on his war experiences. He doesn't seem to want to, either.

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